



NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

Phone: (406) 444-3750 • stateparks.mt.gov

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Contact: Pat Doyle (406) 444-3818

Betsy Kirkeby (406) 444-3343

Public Comment Sought on Thompson Falls Fish Pond Improvements

-Comments due by Thursday, June 4 at 5pm-

(Thompson Falls, MT) – Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that it is seeking public comment on a draft environmental assessment (EA) for improvements to facilities and fish habitat at the Family Fishing Pond at Thompson Falls State Park located near Thompson Falls, MT.

Public comments are due by Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 5pm.

The draft EA proposal is a partnership between Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and Avista Corp to enlarge the size of the existing family fishing pond at Thompson Falls State Park. The project would increase the surface area of the pond to 1.1 acres, and improve the facilities available in the park. Work would include: removing a causeway that currently divides the pond, deepening of the pond to a maximum depth of 20 feet, improving vehicle parking, installing signage, and construction of a trail from the parking area to and around the pond. Re-vegetation of the site would take place as needed once construction is completed. Other proposed improvements include two universally accessible fishing platforms, a picnic shelter, and vault latrine.

This project will increase habitat within the pond, provide improved access, and enhance opportunities for successful fishing by visitors, including families and young anglers. Current access to the pond is a rough footpath that in areas is difficult for people with mobility challenges.

Total cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$230,000. Of that estimate, approximately \$208,000 has been committed by Avista Corp through the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement. An Additional \$10,000 has been secured through a Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fish Pond Grant, with the remaining moneys to be provided by Montana State Parks through in-kind labor and material support.

The complete EA document can be viewed online at:

http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0043.html

The public comment period will be open for 30 days. The public is invited to comment by email to ThompsonFalls@mt.gov or comment online at stateparks.mt.gov and click “submit comments.”

Or direct link is here: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0043.html

The public can also send written comments by mail to: **Thompson Falls Pond Improvements, c/o FWP
Region 1, 490 North Meridian RD, Kalispell, MT 59901.**

Public comments must be received by Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 5pm.

For questions about the Thompson Falls Fish Pond draft EA and/or the public comment process, contact Dave Landstrom, Region 1 Park Manager at (406) 751-4574 or dlandstrom@mt.gov.

For more information about Thompson Falls State Park visit: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/thompson-falls/>

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Contact:

Betsy Kirkeby
Public Relations Specialist,
Montana State Parks
(406) 444-3343
bkirkeby@mt.gov